

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 OMB-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

C O N F E D E N T I A L CAIRO 11468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, XF

SUBJECT: PROGRESS TOWARD SPECIAL ARAB SUMMIT ON LEBANON

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REF: CAIRO 11207

1. ASSTSYG OF ARAB LEAGUE FOR PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS MUHAMMAD AL-FARRA (PALESTINIAN) DISCUSSED WITH POLCOUNS AUGUST 26 POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL ARAB SUMMIT ON LEBANON AS PROPOSED BY KUWAIT. FARRA SAID AL SYG RIAD'S AUGUST 19 STATEMENT WAS NOT PUBLISHED BUT SENT AS LETTER TO ALL ARAB HEADS OF STATE (REFTEL). LETTER CONTAINED FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS: (A) LEBANESE SITUATION HAS DETERIORATED TO POINT WHERE IF IT CONTINUES THERE WILL BE AREA-WIDE REPERCUSSIONS; (B) INCREASE IN FIGHTING IS RESULTING IN THE KILLING AND INJURING OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PERSONS; (C) IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE FIGHTING BE STOPPED AND IT IS AN ARAB RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO; (D) REVIEWED UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO CONVENE SUMMIT IN JANUARY 1976 AND REPORT OF THREE-MEMBER DELEGATION DECIDED UPON BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING ON JULY 3; (E) STRONGLY ENDORSED KUWAITI CALL FOR URGENT SUMMIT MEETING.

2. FARRA SAID THAT AS OF AUGUST 26 A.M., TEN COUNTRIES HAD OFFICIALLY ENDORSED ARAB SUMMIT: KUWAIT, LEBANON, BAHRAIN, YAR, SYRIA, JORDAN, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, SUDAN AND MAURITANIA. HE NOTED THAT PRESS REPORTS INDICATED OTHER STATES SUCH AS EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, UAE FAVORED SUMMIT BUT THAT THEY HAD NOT YET RESPONDED OFFICIALLY. HE NOTED GUMHURIYYA REPORT OF AUGUST 26 THAT QADDUMI HAD SAID KUWAIT NOW CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF MINI SUMMIT OF DIRECTLY INVOLVED ARAB STATES IN PREPERATION FOR FULL SUMMIT. FARRA SPECULATED THAT THIS IDEA MAY BE THE REASON FOR DELAY IN SAUDI RESPONSE.

3. THINKING OUT LOAD, FARRA CONSIDERED DESIRABILITY OF URGING THAT REGULAR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING BE MOVED UP FROM SEPTEMBER 4 TO SEPTEMBER 1 (CHARTER REQUIRES THAT IT BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER) AND THAT THIS MEETING SERVE AS PREPARATORY CONFERENCE FOR EITHER MINI SUMMIT OR SUMMIT. FARRA FELT THAT REGARDLESS OF WHETHER MINI SUMMIT OR FULL SUMMIT HELD, PARTIES WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO PUT ASIDE BILATERAL DIFFERENCES AND CONCENTRATE ON LEBANON BEFORE THERE WOULD BE ANY HOPE OF SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.

4. FARRA PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT FIRST PRIORITY OF ARAB
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HEADS OF STATE MUST BE TO STOP THE FIGHTING AND THAT THIS WOULD REQUIRE A SIGNIFICANT STRENGTHENING OF THE ARAB LEAGUE FORCE IN LEBANON.

5. FARRA WAS VERY UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT FORM ENSUING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT COULD TAKE IN VIEW OF DE FACTO PARTITION AND ABSENCE OF ANY ALTERNATIVE PLACE FOR PALESTINIANS TO GO. HE IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL

PROBLEMS WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME.

6. WE HAVE KEPT FARRA INFORMED OF DEPARTMENT STATEMENTS ON HOUGHTON/MACK MISSION AND HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THEY HAD ALREADY DEPARTED JUNIYAH AND THAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS CATEGORICALLY SHOT DOWN REPORTS OF POSSIBLE US PERMANENT OFFICE IN AREA CONTROLLED BY CHRISTIANS. HE DID NOTE WITH CONCERN SPOKESMAN'S USE AUGUST 25 OF TERM /CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON.
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